

Remarks

Claims 1-34 are presently pending in the application.

Responsive to the requirement for election, Applicants hereby elect the claims of Group I, claims 1-20 drawn to a desulfurization process, classified in Class 208, Subclass 208R.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the requirement for restriction for the reasons given below.

Non-elected Group II, claims 21-34, drawn to a fluidized bed reactor, classified in Class 422, Subclass 139, are retained in the application pending reconsideration of the requirement for restriction.

The requirement for restriction is respectfully traversed. The requirement for restriction is based, at least in part, on the grounds that the invention(s) as set forth in the office action are distinct and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by the cited classification and that the fields of search are not the same. All of the art classes referred to in the office action properly would be searched even if the claims of Group II did not exist. Claims 21-34 claim an apparatus where the process claimed in the Group I claims takes place.

The claims in Groups I and II are so closely related in this application to be allowable in a single application. All of the groups of claims clearly relate to entire processes, either in whole or in part, useful for desulfurization. The Examiner alleges that the apparatus of Group II can be used to practice another and materially different process. Applicants respectfully suggest that one of the main aspects of the invention as a whole is the use of the Group II apparatus for the Group I process.


The Examiner is respectfully requested to see the example of the pending application, which provides data, to show that the apparatus of the Group II claims is meant to be used for the process of the Group I claims.

Furthermore, the Examiner is respectfully requested to refer to MPEP 803, 2nd paragraph, which encourages combination, such as the combination of the Group I and II claims in this application.

In view of the foregoing remarks, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-34 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

CONOCOPHILLIPS COMPANY -
I. P. LEGAL

By 
Bronwyn A. Welvaert
Registration No. 52,350

BAW:adh

CONOCOPHILLIPS COMPANY – I. P. LEGAL
P.O. Box 2443
Bartlesville, Oklahoma 74005
918-661-0652

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<u>Bronwyn A. Welvaert</u>	
Bronwyn A. Welvaert	